Boarding Houses

and Hotels

of Midway

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One of the more popular boarding establishments was run by Mrs. Agnes O'Neil, affectionately called "Aunt Nanny O'Neil." She successfully managed the establishment for many years, and then when her health failed, a daughter, Mrs. Agnes Ritchie, took over the management.

Another well regulated and popular boarding house was operated by Mrs. Letty Bronson. Some boarding houses were also kept at the mine sites. There was one at White Pine Canyon and another at the Snake Creek Tunnel. The Old Steamboat Mine also had a boarding house.



One of the most popular spots in early Midway was Mrs. Agnes O'Neil's Hotel and Restaurant. Shown here in front of the building in this 1897 photograph are, left to right, Samuel O'Neil, Ruth Rockwood O'Neil, Helen Ritchie, baby James Ritchie, Aunt Nannie O'Neil, Agnes Ritchie, Samuel Hair, Rachel Hair and Robert Hair.

Written January 20, 1917, by William Lindsay:

'Tis many a year since first we met
To visit Nannie O'Neil
To celebrate her natal day
And wish weh kind heart "weel"
We met a hearty welcome
In her cheerful, kindly way
And many a happy time we've had
With her the livelong day
Many of those who used to come
Have passed away and gone.

Those of her friends who yet remain Their bodies sleeping in their graves Aunt Nannie, too, was called away As all true Christians should. Because she kept the laws of God That she is now in Heaven Still hold the memory dear Til the resurrection morn When nearly eighty-seven And everyone of us feels sure And trusted everyone she met And gladly meet to celebrate Her Birthday every year. As nearly as she could

At the peak of mining there were several Chinese cooks who hired in the area. "One Fan" was a beloved character who cooked at camps in the hills west of Midway. On one occasion young Nate Coleman came running to his father with an especially large piece of pie and exclaimed "Oh, Daddy, see what 'Parasol One' gave me."

Barber shops were operated at various times in Midway by Harry Bircumshaw, William Wheable, Thomas Hair, Mulholland Hair, Walter Van Wagoner and Bert Bonner.

John Mohlman and Mr. Kuhni repaired and made shoes.

Pool halls were operated by Erwin Alder, Walter Van Wagoner, Dow Epperman, Jack Derry and Keith Bronson.

When the railroads came to the area and transportation facilities improved many of the boarding houses closed.

The O'Neil hotel still stands on Midway's Main Street, used today private residence.

as a private residence.